

Indian Names on Wisconsin's Map

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Book Notices

Indian Names on Wisconsin's Map, by Virgil J. Vogel. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1993. xvii, 323 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$42.50 cloth, \$19.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY JACK FILIPIAK, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER

Virgil J. Vogel is best known for his interest in the native use of plants, which resulted in *American Indian Medicine*, the most important work in the field. He has another interest—Indian place names—which produced books on Iowa, Illinois, and Michigan and now a fourth on Wisconsin. It is the best, perhaps due to Vogel's ability to work his way through the diversity of linguistic groupings in Wisconsin, including Algonquian, Siouan, and Iroquoian.

Vogel has devised an interesting classification system that is far better than alphabetized entries for each item. There are twenty-two chapters, each highlighted by a quotation that adds meaning to the category. *Wisconsin* receives a three-page entry that accounts for more than a dozen variations; the term has been attributed to the French and five different American Indian tribes. Sometimes there are sub-categories within a chapter, with alphabetical entries following. The most unusual category is "Artificial Names," a category that includes place names such as *Wissota* which represent attempts by non-Indians to create Indian-sounding names, often by mixing syllables from different Indian words.

Whatever the type of place name—lakes, ponds, rivers, creeks, or whatever—it is here. Vogel's scholarship is impressive; the book contains forty-two pages of notes and a twenty-five-page bibliography. Individual entries display reasoned, scholarly caution while explicating varied origins and meanings. It is clear why the American Name Society honored Vogel as the "dean of American place name research."

This book will be of special value to midwestern libraries and readers, but should be a part of any collection on Native American language or history. My copy will travel the back roads of Wisconsin with an exclusive library of a Wisconsin atlas and a directory of rustic roads.

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